

**Remarks**

Applicants thank Examiner Cao for the careful examination and for the clear explanation of the claim rejection and for the conditional allowance of claims 7 and 24. In response to the final Office action dated October 5, 2002 and Decision on Appeal by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences mailed on September 7, 2004, in which the Board reversed the 103 rejection against claim 8, applicants amend the application as follows:

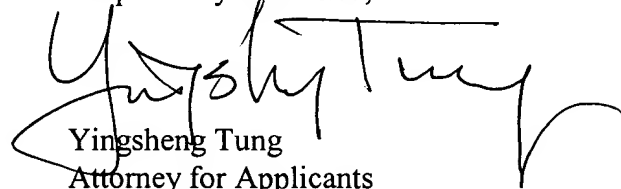
1. Applicants incorporate all limitations of claim 7 in its base claim 1 and cancel claim 7.  
As amended, claim 1 stands patentable over the references.
2. Applicants rewrite claim 24 to incorporate all limitations of its base claim 23. As amended, claim 24 stands patentable over the references.
3. Applicants rewrite claim 8 to incorporate all limitations of its base claim 1. As amended, claim 8 stands patentable over the references based on the Board's decision.
4. Applicants cancel claims 12 – 23 to put this application in allowable form.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 depend directly or indirectly on claim 1. Since claim 1 as amended stands patentable, claims 2 – 6, 9 – 11 stand patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application as amended is in allowable form and all pending claims distinguish over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request that this amendment be entered and the pending claims be timely allowed.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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